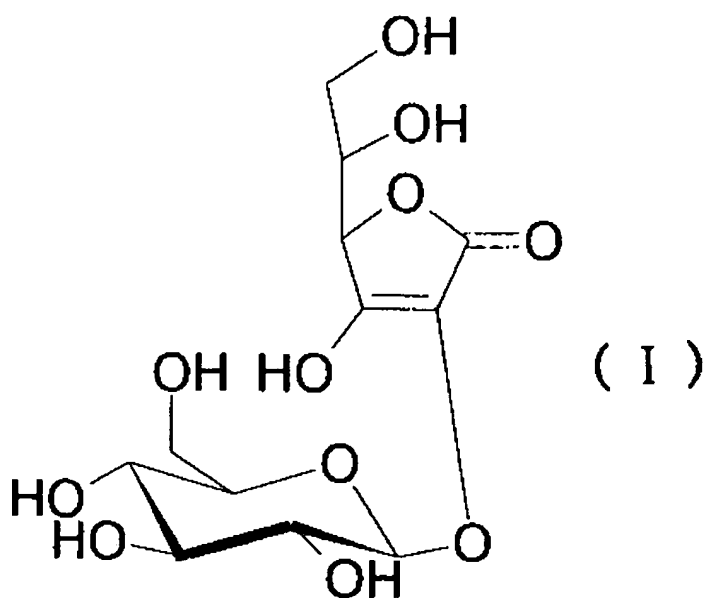


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A composition for external use, comprising 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid represented by the formula (I):



or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, and a koji mold or a processed koji.

Claim 2 (Original) The composition according to claim 1, which is a cosmetic or a quasi-drug.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the 2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid represented by the formula (I) as defined in claim 1 is 2-O-(β -D- glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid extracted from a plant.

Claim 4 (Original): The composition according to claim 3, wherein the plant is a plant of Solanaceae.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The composition according to claim 3 ~~or~~ 4, wherein the plant is Chinese wolfberry, or its raw fruit or dry fruit.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the koji mold is a mold belonging to the genus *Aspergillus*.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the koji mold is a mold belonging to *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus kawachii* or *Aspergillus awamori*.

Claim 8 (Original): A set of a composition comprising 2-O-(β -D- glucopyranosyl) ascorbic acid represented by the formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, and a composition comprising a koji mold or a processed koji.

Claim 9 (Original): A composition comprising 2-O-(β -D- glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid, or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, for the set as defined in claim 8.

Claim 10 (Original): An agent for potentiating skin permeability of 2-O-(β -D- glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid, or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, comprising a koji mold or a processed koji.